

PLEASE AMEND THE CLAIMS AS INDICATED BELOW:

1-17. Canceled.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~arresting the propagation of a buckle in manufacturing a~~ reelable double-walled rigid pipe assembly for underwater transportation of fluid ~~which is resistant to longitudinal propagation of buckling, wherein the rigid pipe assembly comprises an outer wall which has an external diameter, an inner flow pipe the interior of which defines a hollow passage for transporting the fluid, an outer carrier pipe which surrounds the flow pipe, and a separating structure between the inner and outer pipes which defines wall and an annular space therebetween defined between the outer and inner walls,~~ the method comprising: selecting the material and dimensions of the inner pipe according to the properties of the fluid to be transported;
installing two a plurality of sealing blocks axially spaced apart in the annular space on the outer wall of the flow pipe;
selecting the external diameter and wall thickness of the carrier pipe according to the intended environment of use;
installing the outer carrier pipe around the flow pipe and the sealing blocks,
~~which are adapted to seal the annular space and which define a region bounded between the two~~
~~sealing blocks;~~
the sealing blocks having radially opposite faces and being dimensioned to be in contact respectively with the outer and inner walls of the flow pipe and the carrier pipe, to define at least one sealed annular region within the space between the flow pipe and the carrier pipe;
spacing the sealing blocks being placed in the annular space so that the axial length of the annular region is at least equal to 0.5 times the external diameter of the outer wall carrier pipe;
placing a curable compound in the annular region; and
curing the compound in the annular region.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of winding the pipe on a reel after installing the sealing blocks and placing and curing the compound; winding the rigid pipe.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the axial length of the region is in the range of 0.5 to 2 times the external diameter of the ~~outer wall~~ carrier pipe.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein each of the sealing blocks is comprised of radially deformable material which projects radially when compressed axially and which is deformable to the shape of the respective inner and outer walls of the carrier pipe and the flow pipe.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising installing a rigid bearing plate to bear against at least one lateral side of each of the sealing blocks.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the bearing plate has a radial dimension that is less than the radial dimension of the annular space.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein:
~~the outer wall has an inner surface and the inner wall has an outer surface, and the bearing plate is~~
fastened to the outer ~~surface of the inner wall~~ of the flow pipe,
the bearing plate has a radially outer free edge and is so dimensioned as to define a gap between the
free edge of the bearing plate and the inner ~~surface of the outer wall~~ of the carrier pipe.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the bearing plate is made of metal.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein:
at the time of installation on the flow pipe, each of the sealing block has a radial dimension less than
the radial dimension of the annular space when the sealing block is installed into the annular
space; and further including the step of
subsequent to the introduction of the sealing block in installation of the carrier pipe around the flow
pipe to define the annular space, radially expanding the sealing block to bring its radially opposite
faces into tight contact with the opposed inner surface of the outer wall of the flow pipe and outer
surface of the inner wall of the carrier pipe.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the curable compound is an epoxy resin.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein there is further including the
steps of:
providing an injection orifice through the outer wall of the carrier pipe into the region; and
the method further comprises injecting the curable compound into the region through the orifice in
the outer wall.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the curable compound is a thermosetting compound.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the curable compound is curable at room temperature.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, further comprising the steps of:
initially reeling the rigid pipe [[in]] onto a reel after assembly but before injecting the curable
compound into the annular region,
unreeling the rigid pipe from the reel,
introducing the curable compound into the annular region after the pipe has been unreeled, and
heating the annular region to accelerate the curing of the curable compound.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising the steps of:
initially reeling the rigid pipe [[in]] onto a reel after assembly but before injecting the curable
compound into the annular region,
unreeling the rigid pipe from the reel,
introducing the curable compound into the annular region after the pipe has been unreeled, and
heating the annular region to accelerate the curing of the curable compound.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32, wherein heating the annular region
comprises is heated by passing the region of the pipe it through a heater.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33, further comprising the step of
straightening the pipe before heating the annular region to cure the compound.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 34, ~~further comprising straightening~~
wherein:
the pipe is straightened in straighteners in a pipe laying vessel; and
heating the annular region of the pipe is heated in a heater mounted after the straightener on the
vessel [[on]] along the path of movement of the pipe; and further including the step of
moving the pipe from the wound reel through the straighteners and past the heater.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the curable compound has
a pot life in the range of a few minutes to a few weeks.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising the steps of:
winding the pipe onto a receiving reel after introducing the curable compound into the annular
region, ~~thereafter winding the pipe onto a receiving reel; and at~~
transporting the reel carrying the pipe to a site for use of the pipe, and
unwinding the wound pipe from the reel at the site for use.

38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 37, wherein;

the curable compound is introduced into the annular region while the pipe is on land, ~~and~~
the ~~winding of the pipe on a receiving reel is winding it onto~~ located on a pipe-laying vessel, and
~~further comprising transporting the wound reel is transported~~ on the vessel to the site for laying of
the pipe.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the curable compound is injected into the region after the pipe has been straightened.